

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 MMO-01 EUR-08 AID-05 IO-06
OIC-01 SP-02 PER-01 ABF-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 OMB-01
NEAE-00 /053 W
-----271149Z 010419 /41

P 271355Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7288

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 3165

LIMDIS

FOR NEA/RA DIRECTOR PALMER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AMGT, APER, CENTO
SUBJECT: REPROGRAMMING CENTO STAFF POSITION

REF: (A) STATE 85007, (B) ANKARA 2897

1. IN ORDER TO BE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THAT PROPER CONTROL/
ACCOUNTABILITY IS EXERCISED OVER USG FUNDS PROVIDED TO
SUPPORT CENTO SECRETARIAT OPERATIONS WE NEED AN AMERICAN
PRESENCE IN CENTO FINANCE STRUCTURE. IF, AS SUGGESTED PARA
1, REFTEL A, WE ELIMINATE POSITION NOW FILLED BY COLES WE
WILL HAVE TO RELY ON THE ANNUAL AUDIT AND ON THE PURSUIT OF
STRINGENT BUDGETARY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES IN THE BUDGET
AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE AND IN THE COUNCIL OF DEPUTIES
TO ENSURE THAT OUR MONIES ARE USED WISELY.

2. AS OUTLINED REFTEL B (PARA 9) SECRETARIAT AND REORGANIZATION
WORKING GROUP (RWG) ARE CURRENTLY CONSIDERING STRUCTURAL
ADJUSTMENTS WHICH IN SOME CASES MIGHT ENTAIL THE ELIMINATION
OF ONE OR MORE US-SECONDED POSITIONS. PROPOSAL RECENTLY
SUBMITTED INFORMALLY TO RWG BY DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENEAL
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(POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATION) CALLS FOR COMBINATION OF
DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION (TURKISH-SECONDED) POST AND
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE (U.S. SECONDED) POST, RESULTING IN
SAVINGS OF ONE SENIOR GRADED STAFF POSITION. IF WE CUT
COLES' POSITION NOW, THE NEW COMBINED POST OF FINANCE AND
ADMINISTRATION DIRECTOR WOULD PROBABLY REMAIN WITH INCUM-
BENT TURK, REPORTEDLY A WELL-QUALIFIED AND EFFECTIVE WOMAN

OFFICER. IF, ON THE OTHER HAND, THE DEPARTMENT ULTIMATELY DECIDES TO RETAIN THE COLES POSITION WE COULD IN REORGANIZATION CONTEXT MAKE A BID FOR THE COMBINED FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION JOB OR WORK OUT A FORMULA TO ROTATE THE POSITION EVERY TWO YEARS WITH THE TURKS OR PERHAPS WITH THE BRITISH WHOM WE UNDERSTAND ALSO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN THIS ARRANGEMENT.

3. REORGANIZATION OF THE SECRETARIAT'S ECONOMIC DIVISION HAS ALSO BEEN UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION AND DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL (ECONOMIC) MARTIN HAS PROPOSED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PROGRAM SECTION TO BE HEADED BY THE CHIEF ECONOMIC SECRETARY, AMALGAMATION OF THE U.S. BLOCK GRANT SECTION INTO THE NEW PROGRAM SECTION AND ADJUSTMENTS IN THE POSITIONS OF THE SECTORAL ADVISERS (COPY OF MARTIN'S MEMO HAS BEEN POUCHED TO YOU PER PARA 4 REFTEL A REQUEST). UNDER THIS SCHEME, U.S.-SECONDED ECONOMIC SECRETARY DENNIS MAY BECOME CHIEF ECONOMIC SECRETARY AND PROGRAM SECTION HEAD UNTIL THE END OF HIS TOUR IN 1978. DEPENDING ON FINAL OUTCOME OF ECONOMIC DIVISION REORGANIZATION, WE MAY WISH TO LOOK AT RETENTION OF DENNIS POSITION AGAIN LATE THIS YEAR AS TIME OF HIS TRANSFER APPROACHES.

4. WE BELIEVE THAT WE CAN ELIMINATE ONE OF THE U.S.-SECONDED POSITIONS PRESENTLY ENCUMBERED BY COLES AND DENNIS. WE DO NOT BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THIS IS THE OPTIMUM TIME TO MAKE THE DECISION AS TO WHICH POSITION SHOULD BE CUT. WE SHOULD LET THE REORGANIZATION WORK CONTINUE A BIT LONGER BEFORE WE MAKE THAT DECISION. IN THE MEANTIME, WE SHOULD
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IDENTIFY AN OFFICER TO REPLACE COLES BUT NOT REPEAT NOT ACTUALLY ASSIGN HIM TO CENTO AT THIS TIME.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ANKARA03165
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770146-1194
Format: TEL
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770416/aaaaaniy.tel
Line Count: 100
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b363c19c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 85007, 77 ANKARA 2897
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05-Apr-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2685731
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPROGRAMMING CENTO STAFF POSITION
TAGS: AMGT, APER, CENTO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b363c19c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009